

## EXPECTS MEXICANS TO BE WARNING

### Administration Thinks Shooting Across the American Border Will Cease.

**NO THREATS ARE MADE, BUT U. S. IS TO BE FIRM**

Shelling of Mexican Positions, It Is Contended, Would Only Be Repelling an Invasion.

Brig. Gen. Bliss, commanding the troops on the Mexican border, reported to the War Department today that he conferred at Naco yesterday with Gen. Ramirez, military secretary of Gen. Maytorena, the Villa commander of the Mexican forces besieging Gen. Hill's Carranza troops. Ramirez was told by Gen. Bliss what was expected of the operations against the Carranza forces so as to avoid danger to life and property on the American side of the line, and he undertook to communicate the representations to Maytorena.

The War Department has not made public the details of Gen. Bliss' report, but Secretary Garrison declared it disclosed that the conference was harmonious and that Gen. Bliss did not make threats as to what he would do if his warnings were unheeded. No mention was made of any further casualties on the Arizona side of the line yesterday, which is regarded as an encouraging sign.

**Firm Action Is Expected.**

Officials here are expecting that the orders of Provisional President Gutierrez to Maytorena to rearrange his forces if necessary to stop the fire into Arizona will bear fruit before all the American troops and batteries are ordered to Naco get into their positions. In official quarters here no predictions are being made as to the course the United States will pursue, but it is generally understood that after Brig. Gen. Scott, chief of staff of the army, arrives at Naco Saturday and conducts his negotiations with both of the Mexican factions, further firing into American territory will have been one result. Legal authorities here say if the United States troops were to shell the Mexicans out of their positions such an act would be repelling an invasion and not an attack upon Mexico.

**Orders Executions Stopped.**

Special Agent Canova, reporting to the State Department today from Mexico City, said Provisional President Gutierrez had not only issued a decree stopping political executions, but had promised to punish any officials responsible for such executions. So far, Canova reported that executions, of which there had been a great number, had been stopped.

The Mexican minister of war also has assured Consul Silliman that the recent political executions were without sanction of the authorities.

Consul Canada at Vera Cruz, reporting a conversation with Gen. Carranza, said the constitutional chief had nothing to add to his previous assurances that he had ordered his troops at Naco to control their fire against falling in Arizona.

**Zapatistas Hold Puebla.**

The city of Puebla, in the Mexican state of that name, has been evacuated by Carranza forces and now is held by Zapatistas. A report to the State Department today says Carranza troops burned the railroad station before departing.

From Manzanillo it was reported that after their evacuation of Guadalajara the Carranza forces had retreated in the direction of Colima, 100 miles to the southward. Gen. Villa was reported yesterday in the city of Aguascalientes, now on his way to Juarez from Mexico City, reports all quiet from the northern border to the capital.

**Maytorena Withholds Fire.**

NACO, Ariz., December 17.—The Carranza garrison of Naco, Sonora, opened fire with artillery at daylight today on the intrenchments of the Maytorena besiegers. The evident effort to provoke a reply from Maytorena failed up to 9 o'clock.

Military observers on the American side, however, believe Maytorena ultimately would be forced to renew the interchange of shots.

## WILL GET NO MORE CASH UNLESS CONGRESS ACTS

**Controller of Currency Submits Report on Defunct Freedmen's Bank Claimants.**

Unless Congress comes to the relief of the former depositors of the defunct Freedmen's Savings and Trust Company, the five disbursements declared, aggregating 62 per cent of the indebtedness to depositors, will be the last cent distributed to them.

The controller of the currency, who has acted, ex-officio, as commissioner of the defunct institution to settle its accounts, has made his report to Congress, stating that there is \$1,735,071.34 on hand, with the prospect of no trifling additions. Expenses will run up this small balance.

Congress voted the controller, as commissioner, the sum of \$1,600 a year salary for services rendered. This the commissioner has declined to accept himself, and in his report he notes that he has served without compensation.

When the bank failed in 1874 there were \$1,131 depositors to whom was due the sum of \$2,339,925.22. The total payments to date have been \$1,735,071.34. This figure out 62 per cent.

## FOUR TROOPS INTO FRANCE.

**British Transports, Fifteen Daily, Arrive at Havre.**

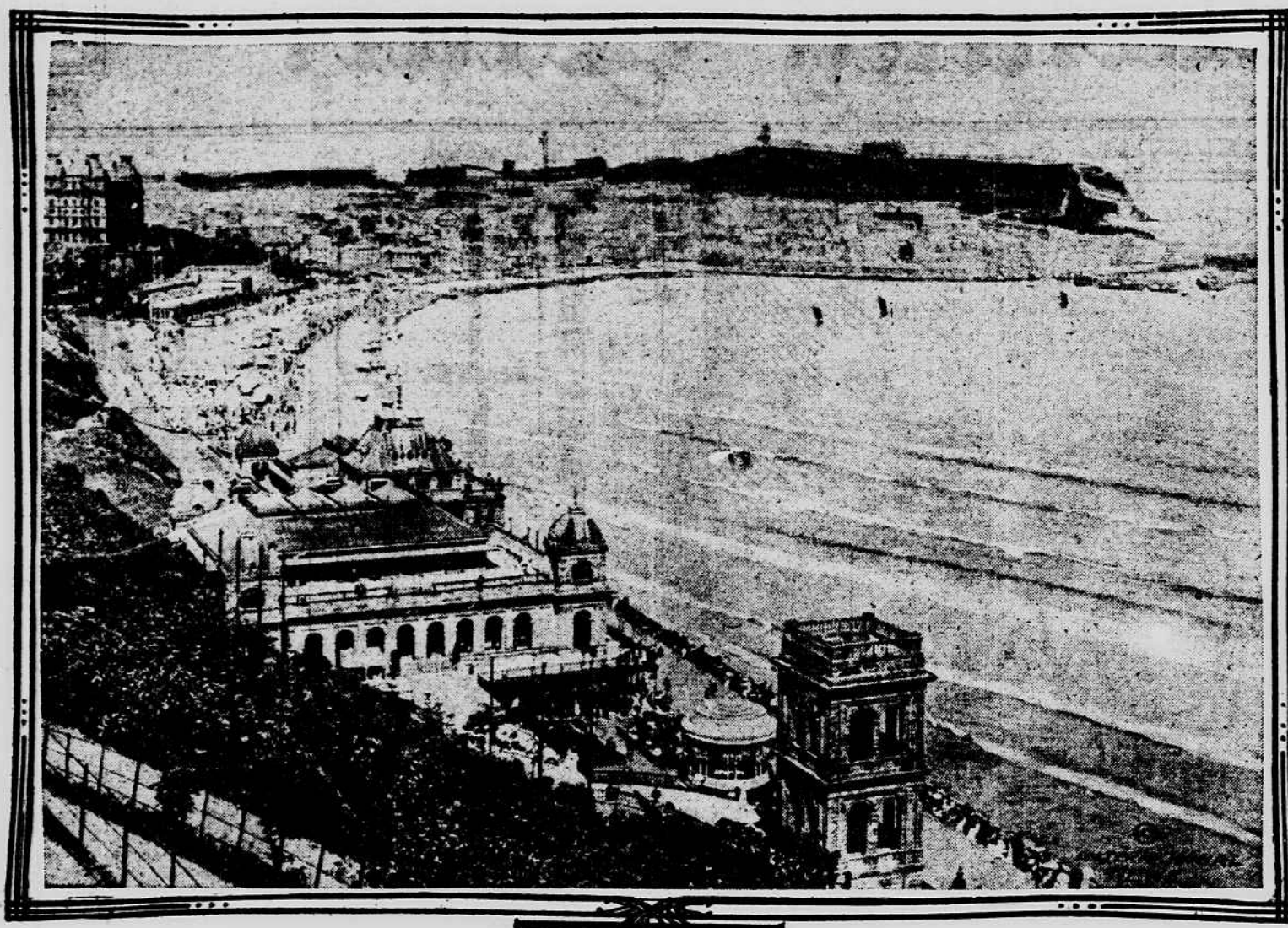
HAVRE, December 17.—Thousands of British troops are arriving here daily on transports, and are being moved to the north as rapidly as possible. The British are making the port of Havre their main base of supplies. On the average, fifteen British transports arrive here daily from Southampton.

Large camps have been leased on the heights along the Seine for periods varying from two to three years, and barracks are being built. Extensive supply depots have been established here.

## Record in Shipbuilding.

LONDON, December 17, 2:12 p.m.—What is described by the admiralty as a record in ship construction was announced today. The light cruiser Caroline was delivered complete today and placed in commission, ten and one-half months after her keel was laid. The date of delivery specified in the contract was May 21, 1915. The cruiser is of 3,300 tons displacement and has a speed of thirty knots.

## SCARBOROUGH, ENGLAND, BOMBARDED BY GERMAN WARSHIPS.



A VIEW OF SCARBOROUGH, THE FASHIONABLE ENGLISH WATERING RESORT ON THE ENGLISH COAST, 200 MILES FROM LONDON.

## ADMIRAL FISKE LAUDS SUBMARINE

**Says That Type Vessel Could Have Stood Off Germans on English Coast.**

**ANALYZES U. S. NAVY AT HEARING IN HOUSE**

**Thinks American Weakness as to Mines and Aircraft Would Be Serious One in War.**

An "adequate" number of British submarines might have repelled the German cruisers which raided the English coast yesterday, Rear Admiral Fiske, said at operations, told the House naval committee at today's hearing on the needs of the sea defenses.

"If the British had had a sufficient number of submarines they could have stood off the cruisers," said he. "If the German vessels were going fast, however, it would be very hard for submarines to stand them off. If they had had a dozen or fifteen submarines at Hartlepool the British would have been pretty hard to tackle."

Admiral Fiske thought that judged by the situation abroad the United States Navy was not as well prepared as other nations have been going ahead in naval affairs much more rapidly.

## Significance of German Feat.

Admiral Fiske thought the real significance of the German shelling of the British ports probably was to draw out the British fleet and string the British fleet along the North sea in such a way that it would be attacked by a German fleet.

Members of the committee suggested that the attack had caused considerable apprehension on the coast.

"Yes, and probably will bring hundreds of thousands of British to the color of the interested Representative Hobson.

"England has seventy-five submarines," said Representative Browning. "How many of those could England have spared to go to the defense of the British coast cities bombarded yesterday?"

"I would have to know the plans of the British admiralty before I could answer that," said the admiral. "The admiralty might have had some other employment for the submarines."

Replying to questions which covered a long range, including academic questions about the Monroe doctrine, Admiral Fiske said that he "didn't think it had a more powerful navy."

"The navy then was inferior to the present one and the British navy was superior to that of the United States."

## Japanese Mention Dropped.

The admiral told the committee that "whether we could take our submarines to Japan is doubtful. Immediately, at the instance of several members, the mention of Japan was stricken out."

"In case of an attack on the American coast," said the admiral, "our inadequacy as to mines and air craft would be very serious. There is considerable development along that line in the foreign nations. If we got into war we might expect an attack on our coast very quickly, possibly in the vicinity of New York."

Admiral Fiske, answering questions, said he was a member of the general board of the navy. He was asked about the board's statement with which he said he agreed, that the absence of a definite naval policy, along with the failure of Congress to recognize the necessities, had put the country in a position of inferiority that might lead to war.

He said the board itself had a pretty definite policy and had asked for all it wanted because it did not want to be called "crazy." He said the board's policy is for four battlefleets.

**Aeroplane Future Weapon.**

Admiral Fiske predicted that aeroplane would prove a greater weapon of the future, and said the general board of the navy had recommended \$5,000,000 for the purpose. He said the German and French air craft have shown a sustained air flight of about twenty-four hours, and they could go from eighty to one hundred miles an hour. Admiral Fiske agreed that the United States had not a proportionate air craft strength, but changed his answer so as not to be non-committal.

Representative Hobson said that it was evident that the United States would have to go out and contest for the supremacy of the sea.

Chairman Fiske called attention to

the testimony in previous years that mines could be manufactured readily at any navy yard.

"We are manufacturing mines at Newport," said Chairman Padgett. "I believe we are," said the admiral. "I saw them manufacturing there," said Mr. Padgett.

The admiral said the United States is far behind Europe in certain directions.

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Admiral Fiske said that the Baltimore was expected to get in commission after awhile, "and we expect to have some mines aboard her in from one to three months."

"How many mine layers have we?" he was asked.

"Just the San Francisco now," "Germany has how many?" "Five."

"Should we have five?" "Yes."

"More?" "The American coast is much larger than Germany's coast."

Administration leaders in the Senate today expressed great surprise over the report that President Wilson intends to keep in office John D. Lynn of Rochester, N. Y., whose nomination to be United States attorney for the western district of New York was unanimously rejected by the Senate Tuesday.

"In my opinion," said one of the most prominent members of the Senate on the democratic side, who has always supported the administration in the Senate, "to keep a man in office who, under the Constitution, must be appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate, is a violation of the spirit of the Constitution, if not of the letter, no matter what steps in the matter of recess appointments might be taken to evade the law. I do not believe that the President will follow such a course."

He added that while he had not looked up the law on the subject he doubted very much whether the appointee rejected by the Senate would be entitled to draw salary if still retained by the administration.

## Senate Custom Supported.

The Senate appears to be a unit in supporting the custom which refuses confirmation to an appointee of the President when that appointee is personally objectionable to the senators from the state in which the appointment is made. Already the Senate has rejected a number of appointees whose nominations were sent by President Wilson because the senator in whose state the appointment was made objected. But up to this time no effort has been made by the President to retain any of these appointees in office after their rejection.

Senator Martin of New Jersey gave the Senate a long and eloquent address in support of the custom, and the good feeling which has existed between the White House and a majority of the Senate in the past may vanish into thin air.

Democrats insisted today that no right was intended on the administration by the rejection of Mr. Lynn's nomination. They reiterated their statement that the rejection was a personal matter and that the Senate had the right to reject any appointee whom it considered objectionable.

They would not state what would be the outcome of an attempt of the President to force the appointee into office. The White House has intimated, it is said, that the President is engaged with a few so-called recalcitrant democratic senators, who oppose the administration's legislative program. But they would not state what would be the outcome of an attempt of the President to force the appointee into office.

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## Other Appointments Rejected.

It is true that two other appointments of the President have been made in opposition to the wishes of Senator Reed of Missouri and Senator Martine of New Jersey, both of whom have parted from the administration on some issue. But these appointments are expected over both these appointments in the Senate. The first is that of Edwin C. Kerans to be United States marshal for the western district of Missouri, and the second is that of George Hampton to be assistant United States marshal for the Camden district of New Jersey.

The patronage club is a strong weapon in the hands of the President, and despite statements to the contrary, the present administration has been charged with using this club freely to force legislation it desired. The present contest is looked upon as merely another phase of the patronage row, and one which may lead to serious trouble between the President and the Senate. It was recalled today that former President Taft tried to use the patronage club on the shoulders of some of the republican senators during his administration, but with disastrous effects.

**Destroyed by Their Own Mine.**

PETROGRAD, via London, December 17.—The Russian warships cruising in Turkish waters have found the bodies of ten sailors from the Turkish cruiser Breslau, according to dispatches from Sebastopol to Petrograd newspapers. The supposition is that the men were blown up by a mine which they were laying.

**Would Show Japan's Friendship.**

TOKIO, December 17, 7:30 p.m.—The American Peace Society of Japan at its annual meeting held here today voted to appoint a committee of fifteen Americans living in Japan to investigate and prepare a statement on the relations between Japan and the United States. The society has made the announcement that it desires to counteract certain unjustified rumors, now being repeated, that Japan has hostile intentions toward the United States.

## SURPRISED WILSON'S BACKING LYNN

**Democratic Senator Thinks the President Violates Spirit of Constitution.**

**NAME IS REJECTED FOR CONFIRMATION**

**Selected for U. S. Attorney of Western District of New York, He Encounters Opposition.**

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## Part of Coast Undefended.

Between Aberdeen on the north and the mouth of the Thames on the south there are considerable stretches of east coast territory without defense. On the east coast of Scotland, Aberdeen is fortified, and there is a naval base at Dundee, guarding the entrance to the Firth of Tay, with a submarine and torpedo station.

The entrance to the wide Firth of Forth, which is defended by the forts at Kinnaird and Kinnegad, and also a naval base and wireless station in that section.

Passing south of the English border, Sunderland, Hartlepool and Middlesbrough, a little farther south, have some fortifications. Between Middlesbrough and the mouth of the Humber, where the important manufacturing city of Lincoln is situated, there is no defense. At Hull and at Grimsby, on the opposite side of the Humber, also at other points near the mouth of the river, there are forts and a naval base. Except several wireless plants along the coast no forts are known to exist between the mouth of the Humber and Grimsby, which is only a short distance north of the mouth of the Thames. At front in the defense of the coast.

As France had long been looked upon as the source of danger of attack from the German coast, the defense of England largely has been shaped southward.

**Defenses Shaped Southward.**

The attention of the National Defense Association of Great Britain had been called several years ago, it was said, to the fact that the east coast, from the mouth of the Humber to the mouth of the Thames, was harder to defend than the south. It was pointed out then that along the north coast of England in Northumberland and Durham counties there are a series of ports flush with the coast, the Humber, Tyne, Wear, Ussington, and the Mersey, which places lie up intricate channels, which there are sandy beaches.

In other words, it was said all the facilities of these ports would be quickly available to the first landing parties and could be seized with relative ease. The series of harbors, the British defense society was told, in case a landing could be effected, would become a flying base for such portion of the German fleet as was not engaged in the rescue of the coast.

These very harbors and their defenses would be utilized against England in this case to the first landing party. The series of harbors, the British defense society was told, in case a landing could be effected, would become a flying base for such portion of the German fleet as was not engaged in the rescue of the coast.

Carlisle Might Be Seized.

A very few miles across country, the National Defense Association was told, is Carlisle, the point at which all the west coast railways converge, and if there were any hesitation these lines might be cut, even Carlisle itself seized, and in this case it would isolate two divisions in Scotland, while the Northumbrian territorial division would be paralyzed, and the two Lancashire and the West Riding territorial divisions, hurrying to the rescue, might be checked, and if forced into battle might require the full strength of the regular troops and probably half of the territorial army from the south.

This possibility in case of invasion at a point or points along the coast of the north counties of England proper, where nine-tenths of the population, of more than 2,000,000 people, live in a narrow belt along the coast not more than twenty miles wide at its broadest point, had been pointed out.

While military opinion here seemed to

## NAVAL RAID TOPIC OF J. S. OFFICIALS

**Hypothetical Situations Involving American Defenses Discussed Informally.**

The raid of German warships on the north coast of England continued today to be a topic of much discussion in official and diplomatic circles. No formal comment was made by government officials, but the bombardment was discussed among them as well as in congressional circles with particular application to hypothetical situations in which American defenses might be involved.

Among naval experts it was generally believed that while the raid was for moral effect and did not screen a general invasion of England by Zepellins and submarines, the vulnerability of Great Britain to such attacks was to some extent emphasized by it. On the contrary, they believed that any sustained attack on England's coast would necessitate a very much larger number of ships than were engaged yesterday and by the time an attempt was made to land an expeditionary force the English fleet could be brought into action.

The fact that except for the protection afforded by her fleet the east coast of England probably is vulnerable at a number of points is disclosed in information obtained from official sources.

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## Shortage of Men in Navy.

Assistant Secretary of the Navy Franklin D. Roosevelt told the committee yesterday the navy is from 20,000 to 30,000 men short of the number required by the battle plans for the fleet. He said men would be needed for services other than manning the ships now in commission. Asked why so many ships are out of commission, he said that no nation except Haiti keeps its navy in full commission at all times. Haiti's navy is two gunboats.

Better ships and equipment for the naval militia were urged by the assistant secretary as the most practical way of building up a reserve. He said the navy now could command about 7,000 militiamen in case of need.

The navy, Mr. Roosevelt assured the committee, had gone steadily ahead during the past year, had improved its personnel, had increased its armament and had increased the number of both submarines and torpedoes.

"Are we any less prepared than ever before?" asked Representative Gray of Indiana.

"I am unable to answer that question, as I do not know definitely what the condition of certain other powers is at this time."

## Comparatively Less Prepared.

"Yes, comparatively, because certain other nations have been making preparations in various ways, drilling, organizing and so on for some months, all being directed to actual prosecution of war. So they have increased their preparation for war. Relatively we are not so prepared as when the European war began."

"From confidential reports," he added, "it is certain other nations have very greatly increased their submarine strength, a fact which Congress should consider in framing the naval bill. Representative Gardner of Massachusetts will have a hearing tomorrow."

**CONFERENCE ON TRACTION SERVICE.**

**Officials Look to Improvement on Washington and Old Dominion Line.**

Plans for improving the service on the Washington and Old Dominion Railway Company line were discussed at a conference in the District building today between Engineer Commensal, Kutz, chairman of the public utilities commission; Judge W. F. Rice, member of the Virginia corporation commission; E. Cone, an official of the Virginia commission; W. K. Hanly of the Alexandria county public utilities commission; W. B. Emmert, vice president and general manager of the Washington and Old Dominion Company; and H. C. Eddy and B. A. Harlan, engineer and chief clerk, respectively, of the public utilities commission of the District.

At the conference the commission officials were told by Mr. Emmert that there is little hope of improving conditions with the present limited terminal facilities.

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doubt whether any such extensive invasion as that indicated above would take place, it was admitted that if it did come about it might follow the lines to which the attention of the National Defense Association was directed.

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